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COUNTRY PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATION**

Sri Lanka

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1996 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of Sri Lanka which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less, as well as a recommendation for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme for which the balance of approved general resources is not sufficient to fund the programme up to the approved programme period. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve:

(a) The amount of $5,000,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $10,500,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific purpose contributions, for the period 1997 to 2001;

(b) Additional general resources in the amount of $67,649 for the period 1992 to 1996 to achieve the objectives of the country programme as originally approved by the Board.

* E/ICEF/1996/18.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1995. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1996 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.43/Add.2).

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BASIC DATA
(1994 unless otherwise indicated)

Child population (millions, 0-15 yrs)	6
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	19
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	15
Underweight (% moderate and severe) (1993)	38
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (1990)	140
Literacy (%, male/female) (1995)	93/87
Primary school enrolment (% net male/female)	../..
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%) (1992)	92
Access to safe water (%) (1992)	53
Access to health services (%) (1980)	93
GNP per capita (1994)	$640

One year olds fully immunized against:

tuberculosis:	86 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	88 per cent
measles:	84 per cent
poliomyelitis:	88 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus:	79 per cent

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. The country note on Sri Lanka submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 1996 (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.33) highlighted the fact that although there have been important gains in child survival, the quality of survival and regional disparities, e.g. on plantations, remain problems. Lack of awareness of the increasing HIV/AIDS problem and the ongoing armed conflict could threaten achievements made to date.

2. The country has a high level of malnutrition, which affects two out of five children under five years of age. While primary school enrolment rates are high, the quality of primary education is poor. Thus, continued efforts to reduce malnutrition and improve the quality of primary education have been identified as priorities.

3. The conflict in the northern and eastern parts of the country intensified in 1995 and 1996, leading to a substantial increase in the number of displaced people. Over 500,000 children have been displaced since 1990. The Government has been able to continue basic services in health and education in the conflict-torn areas and to provide food rations, including to displaced persons. The replacement of destroyed infrastructure and the burden of heavy military expenses continue to be challenges.

4. Over 500,000 people live on plantations where indicators, particularly the infant and maternal mortality rates, are double the national averages. Over 90 per cent of women are members of the workforce, with resulting negative consequences for child and maternal care. Geographical isolation on plantations also makes access to proper maternal care difficult.

5. Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to prepare a national programme of action for children. The Government has always been committed to the well-being of women and children and historically has committed a large share of its budget to social sector development. It has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and enacted a Children's Charter and some protection legislation. Discussion of the Convention has increased public awareness of child protection issues, including trauma and dislocation caused by the armed conflict, the problem of child combatants, commercial sexual exploitation, child abuse (especially affecting girls) and child labour. Although further efforts are needed, the Government has provided support to rehabilitation centres for traumatized children; refined national laws on rape, abortion, incest and sexual abuse; and provided training to the police.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1992-1996

6. As planned, the Government will assume full responsibility for the purchase of all antigens after 1996. UNICEF, with funding provided by Rotary International, supported polio eradication efforts through national immunization days in 1995 and 1996. There have been no polio cases since 1993, and neonatal tetanus has been eliminated. UNICEF also helped to create awareness of HIV/AIDS among youth groups as part of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

7. The Government has assumed responsibility for the production and distribution of oral rehydration salts (ORS). Communication activities helped to sustain a high level of awareness of the need for oral rehydration therapy; over 85 per cent of mothers know how to prepare and use ORS.

8. The overall nutrition strategy has been multisectoral, involving local governments and partners in the health, water, agriculture and education sectors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Continuous advocacy, growth monitoring and educational activities created wider awareness that malnutrition is not simply explained by poverty and that it can be reduced significantly by improvements in health and sanitation conditions and caring practices. Nutrition activities were partially supported by the Government of Norway and the Netherlands Committee for UNICEF.

9. The participatory nutrition improvement programme, which stressed community action, succeeded in encouraging behavioural changes during field trials and was expanded to cover about 50,000 people in 25 divisions. This approach is being incorporated into other government and donor-supported development activities. UNICEF supported the development of methodology and materials for the programme. Around 90 per cent of mothers give birth in government or private institutions, and over 60 per cent of all deliveries are now in institutions declared "baby friendly". Other nutrition programme components stressed the need for exclusive breast-feeding.

10. UNICEF advocacy raised public awareness of the need for universal salt iodization. Legislation came into force in mid-1995, despite opposition by some producers. UNICEF provided equipment and technical support to government and private sector producers to improve the quality of salt, and to the Ministry of Health for monitoring levels of iodine deficiency disorders and compliance with the law. One half of consumers surveyed were using iodized salt in 1995.

11. UNICEF support for education was directed to improving the quality of primary education and increasing opportunities for primary school drop-outs. Activities included establishing 90 new literacy/learning activity centres and community libraries, which complemented other donor-supported activities under the coordination of the Ministry of Education. A curriculum was developed for participatory training in conflict resolution as part of the national curriculum. UNICEF supported the development of a home-based approach to early childhood development (ECD).

12. Donors, notably the Governments of Canada and Germany and the Japan Committee for UNICEF, supported construction of wells and latrines for some 900,000 people through the area-based and emergency projects. Community groups maintained hand-pumps and tool kits were distributed. A national database was established.

13. Despite coordination difficulties, supplies and services were provided to nearly 1 million displaced persons, with donations from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Germany and Sweden. UNICEF advocated successfully for the adoption of a policy of keeping children with their families and ensuring their education, and supported activities to help parents deal with the effects of trauma on children. UNICEF worked with the mass media and NGOs to highlight child abuse and child labour, but more assessment of the scope of the problem is needed, along with support to mobilize community action. UNICEF worked closely with the Government, the media, Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom), Redd Barna and Sarvodaya, a local NGO, to increase awareness of and prevent the sexual exploitation of children. Legislation has been enacted and materials were prepared for training the police.

Lessons learned

14. The major programme strategy should be to increase the Government's capacity through training of personnel at all levels. There should be a strategic focus on development and protection issues, i.e., nutrition and conflict-related problems. Because improved nutrition is an outcome of multisectoral activities, there is a need to improve linkages and programme coordination between agencies and to put coordination issues higher on the political agenda.

15. Increased awareness by partners of child protection issues, particularly children in especially difficult circumstances, has resulted in the refinement of approaches to protection issues. These include promoting enforcement of laws, mobilization and training the judiciary, politicians, NGOs, parents and community groups to widen awareness.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONAL GENERAL RESOURCES FOR THE APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMME, 1992-1996

Annual funding requirements

(In United States dollars)

Current programme cycle	Approved general resources funding	Additional funding proposed
1992-1996	6 875 000	67 649

16. The current country programme for Sri Lanka covering the period 1992 to 1996 was approved by the Executive Board in 1992 with an allocation of $6,875,000 from general resources and $24,058,000 in supplementary funds (E/ICEF/1992/P/L.27). In order to accelerate the achievement of the mid-decade goals, especially in the most deprived areas, such as on plantations, the programme ceilings for 1993 and 1994 were increased. Therefore, available funds will be exhausted before the end of the programme cycle, and additional funding of $67,649 is needed for completion of planned activities in the areas of safe motherhood, growth monitoring, community-based participatory nutrition and early child-care activities.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1997-2001

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
General resources						
Health	255	235	208	180	180	1 058
Nutrition	330	350	362	360	360	1 762
Education	119	115	118	123	85	560
Young child development	11	15	12	7	5	50
Women-centred programme	25	25	40	70	60	220
Children in especially difficult circumstances	25	25	25	25	25	125
Advocacy	50	50	50	50	70	270
Planning and monitoring	50	50	50	50	80	280
Programme support	135	135	135	135	135	675
Subtotal	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	5 000
Supplementary funding a/						
Health	200	200	200	200	200	1 000
Nutrition	600	600	600	600	600	3 000
Education	100	100	100	100	100	500
Children in especially difficult circumstances	100	100	100	100	100	500
Area-based programme	200	200	200	200	200	1 000
Emergency	850	850	850	850	850	4 250
Child participation	50	50	50	50	50	250
Subtotal	2 100	2 100	2 100	2 100	2 100	10 500
Total	3 100	3 100	3 100	3 100	3 100	15 500

a/ In addition, there are funded supplementary funding projects shown in the table at the end of the document.

17. Sri Lanka has made sustainable achievements which create opportunities to move beyond survival, universalize child survival gains in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and concentrate on realizing children's rights to development and protection. The overall objective of the proposed programme will be to support Government efforts to sustain survival gains and increase community and government capacities to address child development and protection. Malnutrition and the quality of primary education will be the primary programme focus in child development. Addressing the consequences of the conflict through emergency relief and rehabilitation will be the major concern for child protection. Support for nutrition and national immunization days will form the major part of the core programme and be funded from general resources. Supplementary funds will be used to expand coverage. The emergency and area-based projects will be entirely dependent on supplementary funds.

18. The conceptual framework for the proposed country programme uses a "rights-based" approach, with sectoral programmes corresponding to rights for survival, protection, development and participation. Programmes dealing with child survival include health. Programmes dealing with development include nutrition, education and young child development. Protection rights are addressed through interventions for children in especially difficult circumstances. Other cross-cutting programmes address survival, protection, development and participation, and include those for women, area-based programmes, emergencies, advocacy and planning and monitoring.

Child survival (health)

19. The programme will support achievement of the objectives for reproductive health formulated by the International Conference on Population and Development. Key projects to be funded from general resources include the expanded programme on immunization (EPI), with the objective of eradicating polio and measles, and achieving 100 per cent immunization coverage. Assistance to the safe motherhood programme will concentrate on improving the quality of services. In the area of HIV/AIDS, UNICEF will support the production of education materials and training of trainers to facilitate behavioural change, covering 85 per cent of the youth population as part of UNAIDS.

Child development (nutrition, education and young child development)

20. The major objective is nutrition education for government staff, political leaders, families and the general public. The major strategy for child development will be capacity-building, primarily for local government agencies and communities, to reduce malnutrition and improve the quality of primary education. This strategy should lead to the empowerment of communities, supported by nationwide advocacy and information campaigns. Curriculum development in schools, colleges of education and teacher-training institutions will incorporate new conceptual thinking on the causes of malnutrition. Policy advocacy will address the development of conceptual frameworks, training and public awareness campaigns.

21. The programme will support growth monitoring and promotion for all children under five years of age. Mobilization and the empowerment of communities for local assessment, analysis and action will improve nutritional status by 50 per cent in one half of the country's approximately 290 divisions. Continued advocacy and support for sustaining the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative should increase the rate of exclusive breast-feeding to at least

50 per cent. In addition, advocacy and training for exclusive breast-feeding will be provided through other programme components. The incidence of diarrhoea, a major contributor to malnutrition, will be reduced by one half through hygiene education, sanitation and the provision of safe water in some 145 target divisions. UNICEF will support nationwide government initiatives for the control of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases through training of all health staff. Nutrition education, community mobilization and breast-feeding promotion will be funded from general resources, and other activities will depend on supplementary funding.

22. The programme aims to improve the quality of primary education by enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Education for policy and strategy development. It will establish an information structure to improve teaching skills and curricula, and to improve communication between the Ministry and the provincial and zonal educational authorities. Support will be provided for the development of methodologies for disadvantaged schools, including child-centred, active and participatory approaches, especially for multi-level and multigrade teaching. These methodologies will be incorporated into national teacher-training programmes. The home-based ECD project will improve skills and motivation through training staff in teacher-training institutions and through the development of culturally sensitive training materials for parents on how to practice early child stimulation at home, using everyday life and family experiences. General resources will cover activities such as the development of methodologies and materials, with support for training and the expansion of implementation depending on the availability of supplementary funds.

Child protection (children in especially difficult circumstances and women-centred programme)

23. The objective of a project for prevention of child abuse and exploitation is to strengthen legal protection of children through training of the judiciary, police, policy makers and implementers and legislators; legal reforms; law enforcement; and mobilization of communities to overcome problems of child labour and sexual abuse. A second project will include follow-up activities to the Fourth World Conference on Women for gender awareness and the reduction of violence against women and children, including continuation of efforts for better legal protection, greater awareness of women's rights and wider use of gender analysis in planning and implementation of all other programmes supported by UNICEF.

Child participation (advocacy)

24. Child participation will be addressed through multisectoral activities, including support for training, the production of advocacy materials and mass media promotion. In particular, teacher training and the school curriculum will be modified to facilitate and promote full student participation.

Children and women in estates (area-based programme)

25. A principle objective will be to strengthen selected estate medical units with a package of support that will facilitate the delivery of health, nutrition and child-care services. The package includes equipment and drugs to improve antenatal and post-natal care and maintain EPI; and capacity-building through the training of midwives, medical assistants, volunteers, local NGO staff and crèche attendants. Project inputs will depend on supplementary funds and will complement the support of other donors, which concentrate largely on physical infrastructure.

Conflict-affected children (emergency)

26. The project will consist of emergency relief, child development and rehabilitation of basic services. Child protection activities will focus on facilitating the empowerment of displaced families. This component will depend entirely on supplementary funding.

Monitoring and evaluation

27. Quarterly, annual and mid-term programme reviews will continue to be conducted jointly by the Government and UNICEF to assess progress, identify constraints and opportunities, and make necessary adjustments. Specific studies and evaluations will assess programme progress and impact. Cost analysis will be introduced for all project components. In the year 2000, there will be an assessment of progress towards the decade goals.

Programme management

28. The External Resources Department of the Ministry of Finance, which is the current government focal point for UNICEF, will be responsible for the overall coordination of the country programme. The Ministry will ensure the availability of the Government's contribution in terms of finance, human resources and material. It will ensure that the necessary integration and coordination required between the various components of the programmes are established and maintained. Other sectoral ministries will be responsible for implementing the respective sectoral programmes. The programmes in areas affected by conflict will be carried out through government infrastructures and by NGOs. UNICEF will outpost two international staff to monitor relief and rehabilitation activities.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

UNTRY : SRI LANKA
OGRAMME : 1997-2001

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET (In thousands of US dollars)				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/ (In thousands of US dollars)		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
NERAL RESOURCES :																	
TRITION	1,762			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0.0	0.0	0.0
ALTH	1,058			1,762	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	692.6	242.1	934.7
DC	125			1,058	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.0	250.3	250.3
UCATION	560			125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EA-BASED	0			560	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	163.5	163.5
ERGENCY	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
VOCACY	270			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ANNING/MONITORING	280			270	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OGRAMME SUPPORT	675			280	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	130.8	130.8
ILD PARTICIPATION	0			675	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	0.0	528.9	528.9
UNG CHILD DEVELOPMENT	50			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MEN-CENTRED PROGRAMME	220			50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
				220	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GR	5,000			5,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	6	9	16	692.6	1,315.6	2,008.2
PPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
TRITION		249	3,000	3,249	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	627.0	204.2	831.2
ALTH		0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DC		0	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
UCATION		0	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EA-BASED		377	1,000	1,377	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0	236.9	236.9
ERGENCY		0	4,250	4,250	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	3	7	1,319.5	405.4	1,724.9
VOCACY		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ANNING/MONITORING		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OGRAMME SUPPORT		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ILD PARTICIPATION		0	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
UNG CHILD DEVELOPMENT		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MEN-CENTRED PROGRAMME		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SF		626	10,500	11,126	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	4	7	14	1,946.5	846.5	2,793.0
TOTAL GR & SF	5,000	626	10,500	16,126	0	0	0	2	2	0	4	10	16	30	2,639.1	2,162.1	4,801.2
M. & PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET		Operating costs		1,802.5													
		Staffing			0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	12	16	1,449.7	1,307.2	2,756.9

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TABLE (continued)

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET (In thousands of US dollars)				POSTS a/									STAFF COSTS b/ (In thousands of US dollars)		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL (GR+SF+ADM)					0	0	1	3	2	0	6	12	28	46	4,088.8	3,469.3	7,558.1
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											5	14	30	49			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											6	12	28	46	4,088.8	3,469.3	7,558.1

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
ADM = administrative.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Exclude temporary assistance and overtime; include costs of United Nations volunteers.